



Los Angeles County Commission on Disabilities

Celebrating 31 Years of Leadership & Advocacy



MEMBERS

Janet A. Neal
Chair

Harley Rubenstein
Vice Chair

Bernard Siegel
Treasurer

Ruth Ann Acosta
Mary Chambers
Viola Vivian Corbett
Ernest T. Hamilton, Jr.
Michael G. Gureckas
Richard Krzyzanowski
Alexia Teran
John B. Troost
Kecia Weller
Wendy Welt
Shelia D. Wright

MINUTES OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

The regular meeting of the Los Angeles County Commission on Disabilities was held on Wednesday, June 21, 2006, at Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, Room 140, 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Neal at 1:15 p.m. Introductions of Commissioners, Staff and audience members followed.

APPROVAL OF THE MAY 17, 2006 MINUTES

On motion of Commissioner Weller, seconded by Commissioner Krzyzanowski, and unanimously carried, the Minutes for the meeting of May 17, 2006 were approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Linda Block spoke about her support of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 and encouraged others to support the bill as well. Ms. Block also shared her concerns relating to the Youth for Human Rights International.
- Osbee I. Sangster spoke about the need for stronger legal and nonlegal advocacy among County, State, federally funded and nonprofit organizations.
- Donna Dougherty spoke about the Griffith Park Observatory Access Initiative which is a movement to ensure that during the \$93 million renovation to the Observatory, an accessible entrance in the front of the building is constructed. Although the site does have an entrance at the rear of the building which is accessible, Ms. Dougherty's group is adamant that an accessible entry be added to the front as well. Ms. Dougherty is scheduled to appear before the City Council in July to advocate for the accessible ramp and encouraged others supporting her initiative to join her.
- Donna Pomerantz, announced that Community Rehabilitation Services, and the Disabled Students Program of the East Los Angeles College would be hosting a Disability Awareness Day on July 22, 2006 from 1:00 – 5:00 p.m., in the Men's Gym at East Los Angeles College, 1301 E. Cesar Chavez Ave., Monterey Park, CA. The event is free to the public.

- Vice Chair Rubenstein inquired about the feasibility of contacting the In Home Supportive Services (IHSS) Program to have a representative explain how IHSS determines how much time to allow for the different tasks a worker performs for clients.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Discussion of the website [WWW.anique.com](http://www.anique.com)

Chair Neal spoke about the website www.anique.com which was created to honor the memory of Anique Jaqueline Kasper. Anique is a young woman who died in July of 1992 from AIDS after being transfused with HIV contaminated blood shortly after her premature birth on September 23, 1980. Anique was born at Cedars Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles, and is one of 114 other premature babies transfused with the same supply of HIV infected blood. Of the 114 babies, only three are still alive, and Chair Neal reported she recently spoke with one of them. Chair Neal encouraged everyone to have an HIV screening.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2006-2007

Dedie Ward, staff, presented the following slate of candidates for the election of officers for 2006-2007: Chair Neal and Vice Chair Rubenstein as Chair; Commissioners Weller and Krzyzanowski and Vice Chair Rubenstein as Vice Chair; and Commissioners Weller and Siegel as Treasurer.

Nominations for the office of Chair were called for from the floor. There being none, on motion of Commissioner Troost, seconded by Commissioner Krzyzanowski and unanimously carried, nominations for Chair were closed.

The roll call vote resulted in a vote of 6-1 in favor of electing Chair Neal to serve another term as Chair of the Commission.

Nominations for the office of Vice Chair were called for from the floor. Commissioner Rubenstein withdrew his candidacy for Vice Chair at this time. There being none, on motion of Chair Neal, seconded by Commissioner Siegel and unanimously carried, nominations for Vice Chair were closed.

A roll call vote resulted in a vote of 4-3 in favor of electing

Commissioner Krzyzanowski as Vice Chair.

Nominations for the office of Treasurer were called for from the floor. There being none, on motion of Commissioner Weller, seconded by Chair Neal and unanimously carried, nominations for Treasurer were closed.

A roll call vote resulted in a vote of 6-1 in favor of electing Commissioner Weller as Treasurer.

STAFF REPORT

- On June 27, 2006 the Commission will be hosting a visit from the China Disabled Persons' Federation in Room 830 at 10:00 a.m. in the Hall of Administration.
- Ms. Ward distributed the booklet, *Emergency Preparedness: Taking Responsibility for Your Safety*, which is a guide published by the County Office of Emergency Management geared to assist persons with disabilities in preparing for a disaster.

PRESENTATION ON RALPH BROWN ACT

Barbara Y. Goul, County Counsel, gave a presentation on the regulations outlined in the Ralph Brown Act and how they affect the manner in which meetings are to be conducted. The "Brown Act" is the state law that requires local legislative bodies, such as a Commission, to conduct business in an open forum, and guarantees the public's right to attend and participate in meetings.

Ms. Goul also gave an overview on the impact the regulations have on committee meetings, electronic communication and social gatherings by a legislative body; distributed an outline summarizing the Brown Act; and answered questions posed by Commissioners.

* * * * * The Commission took a five minute recess * * * * *

REVIEW OF MISSION STATEMENT AND COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

This item was deferred to the July agenda.

DISABILITIES CIVIL RIGHTS COMPLIANCE SECTION (DCRCS)

Kurt Hagan, Deputy Compliance Officer with the Office of Affirmative Action Compliance (OAAC), Disability Civil Rights Compliance Section (DCRCS) reported the following:

- The ADA compliance reviews of County Departments are nearing

completion.

- The Emergency Evacuation Disability Advisory Committee will be reviewing the existing emergency evacuation plans for potential revisions and improvements. The next Committee meeting is scheduled for July 11th 10:00 a.m. at the County's Emergency Operation Center.
- The OAAC had the opportunity to meet with a Russian Delegation and give an overview on the history and creation of the Americans with Disabilities Act and speak on compliance issues within the County. The Russian Delegation was very interested in the County's efforts relating to ADA issues.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Public Relations Committee

Commissioner Krzyzanowski announced he has learned that the Commission is allowed to make an appointment of one delegate from the disabilities community to serve on the Stakeholders Group which was developed after the passage of Prop 13 to determine how the Mental Health Act funds would be allocated. Commissioner Krzyzanowski will look into the matter and report back.

Commissioner Krzyzanowski also introduced Mr. Dennis O'Brien who is a representative of Los Angeles County's Mental Health Client Coalition.

Update on Community Forum Radio Program

Chair Neal reported that the Community Forum Radio Program is doing well and that community participation is increasing.

Update on 2006 Access Awards Luncheon Commissioner Rubenstein requested that discussion of the Access Awards Luncheon be placed on the July 19, 2006 Commission meeting.

B. Transportation Committee

ASI Report

Chair Neal distributed a letter written by Lillibeth Navarro, Executive Director of CALIF, and also an ASI user, to John Helm the Executive Director of Access Services. In the letter, Ms. Navarro reported that she received poor customer service from the ASI Operations Center and was left stranded without a ride from a conference she had attended on a Saturday. Fortunately, Ms. Navarro contacted Chair Neal who was able to assist her and arrange for another agency to pick her up.

ITEMS NOT ON THE POSTED AGENDA TO BE PLACED ON A FUTURE AGENDA

Presentation by Dr. Dennis O'Brien, representative from the Los Angeles County Client Coalition.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Executive Committee of the Commission will be meeting at 11:30 p.m. on July 19th.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m. in memory of musician Billy Preston.

ATTENDANCE

Present

Janet Neal, Chair
Harley Rubenstein, Vice Chair
Bernard Siegel, Treasurer
Richard Krzyzanowski
Alexia Teran
John B. Troost
Kecia Weller
Sheila Wright

Excused Absent

Ruth Ann Acosta
Viola Vivian Corbett
Mary Chambers
Michael Gureckas
Ernest T. Hamilton, Jr.

Board of Supervisors

Sandra Barbee
Dedie Ward
Martha Arana

ASI

Jess Segovia
Teddie Joy-Remhild

Guests

Osbee I. Sangster
Donna Pomerantz
Marvin White
Rae L. McKeever

Carlton Lindo
Donna Dougherty
Rone Ellis